

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

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FOR HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT

FOL REPEAT TEL LISBON 2800 SENT ACTION SECSTATE MAY 19

QTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 2800

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, MILI, PINT, PO

SUBJ: ATTACK ON CHANCERY

REF: (A) LISBON 2786, (B) EMB LISBON-OPS CENTER TELECONS

MAY 18-19

1. EMBASSY CHANCERY WAS SCENE OF HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION FOR APPROXIMATELY 12 HOURS BETWEEN 3:00 P.M. MAY 18 AND 3:00 A.M. MAY 19. DEMONSTRATORS PAINTED SLOGANS ON EMBASSY WALLS ("IMPERIALISM GET OUT OF PORTUGAL," "DEATH TO FASCISM," "DEATH TO THE CIA AND THE KGB") AND VANDALIZED AT LEAST FIVE VEHICLES BELONG TO EMBASSY OR EMBASSY PERSONNEL (REFTEL). TIRES WERE SLASHED, EXTERIORS DEFACED WITH PAINT, TWO CARS HAD WINDOWS SMASHED, AND EXPENSIVE CAMERA WAS STOLEN FROM PRIVATE CAR.

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2. REGIONAL SECURITY OFFICER WAYNE COMBS WAS PREVENTED BY DEMONSTRATORS FROM ENTERING EMBASSY. COMBS WAS FORCED TO SEEK REFUGE FROM CROWD BY APPROACHING MILITARY UNITS STATIONED IN FRONT OF CHANCERY. SOLDIERS PROTECTED COMBS FROM CROWD, BUT DECLINED TO ASSIST HIM TO ENTER CHANCERY OR TO LEAVE AREA. TROOPS PERFORMED BADLY IN GENERAL, FRATERNIZING WITH DEMONSTRATORS, DISAPPEARED COMPLETELY ON TWO OCCASIONS, AND ACTUALLY ASSISTED DEMONSTRATORS IN VANDALIZING AN EMBASSY VEHICLE. WHEN REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED TWO HOURS LATER, COMBS WAS TAKEN TO RAL-1 --BUT NOT BEFORE A PERSON IN CIVILIAN DRESS INSIDE ESCORTING VEHICLE POINTED COCKED PISTOL AT HIS HEAD IN GESTURE PERHAPS DELIBERATELY CALCULATED TO APPEASE CROWD. COMBS WAS TREATED HOSPITABLY AT RAL-1, AND OFFICER ON DUTY THERE SAW TO IT THAT HE WAS DELIVERED SAFELY TO EMBASSY (THREE HOURS AFTER INCIDENT BEGAN).

3. EMBASSY PREPARING STRONG PROTEST NOTE FOR DELIVERY FONMIN. FONMIN SECY-GEN ANDRESEN TELEPHONED BOTH AMBASSADOR AND DCM EVENING MAY 18 (9:45 -10:00 P.M.) TO APOLOGIZE FOR DEMONSTRATION, WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS STILL IN PROCESS.

4. COMMENT: PORTUGUESE POLICE (PSP), WHO HAVE ROUTINE RESPONSIBILITY FOR GUARANTEEING EMBASSY'S SECURITY, ARE PROVING USELESS IN DEALING WITH "PROGRESSIVE" DEMONSTRATORS. THIS IS FIRST OCCASION THAT ELITE COPCON TROOPS HAVE FAILED TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT EMBASSY. FRATERNIZATION BY TROOPS WITH CROWD OUTSIDE EMBASSY EXEMPLIFIED DISCIPLINARY BREAKDOWN AFFECTING PORTUGUESE ARMED FORCES IN GENERAL. CARLUCCI

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